George Lucas never created better special effects

And you thought special effects were only effective on the big screen.

Julius Caesar, at Stratford's Festival Theatre, has a number of touches which, because of the immediacy of theatre, are more powerful than anything George Lucas can create for the screen at his Industrial Light and Magic special effects house.

During a scene in which a man has his neck broken, actors, action and sound come together to present an image of death that invites gasps. It is still horrible to think about.

When Caesar is murdered, the conspirators are impelled by Brutus, the most noble Roman, to wash their Review

with BRAD REAUME

hands in the blood of their victim so

the throng will know who is responsible for saving Rome. When Brutus kneels over the body of Caesar and thrusts his hands into

looks like a proper piece of theatre.

When he lifts his hands and they are crimson with fresh blood, there is a noticeable commotion in the

the wounds up to the elbows, it

audience.

It's darn effective stuff.

Colm Feore is Cassius, brother of Brutus and the instigator of the plot against Caesar. Feore played Valentine in William Congreve's Love for Love a role that is so lightweight by comparison that one now has to acknowledge his considerable range as an actor.

Quick speaker

One problem with his performance is his tendency to speak too quickly. Obviously he is trying to portray the hotheaded younger brother who talks before thinking, and so the quick mode of speech is by design — but occasionally difficult to follow."

The incomparable Brian Bedford is Brutus. His performance as Macbeth earlier in the Stratford season clouds the way any other role is viewed. He was brilliant as Macbeth, and is no less so as Brutus. But the play affords him less opportunity to demonstrate his skill.

Nicholas Pennell is not commanding enough for Julius Caesar. His presence in the early scenes of the play does not fill the stage. Though

He is not regal enough for a man about to crowned emperor and not convincing as a leader, a touchstone for mens' thoughts and deeds. His performance is not augmented through dramatic lighting or bold costuming.

The play is carried by the passionate performance of Scott Wentworth as Mark Anthony. He is tremendous. Both as a larger than life character and a leader of men, through his desire for justice rather than accolades, Wentworth carries the plot of Julius Caesar on his shoulders.

Grand staging

Though his part is small until after the mid-point in the drama, when Caesar is murdered, he revives a play which is being dragged down by the consummation of the plot against Caesar.

The staging of the production grand. With numerous actors in the audience, the effect is that the onlookers are also the spectators at the funeral oration in the Roman capitol. The afformentioned effects and the large cast leave no theatrical moment to chance.

Julius Caesar: Aug. 2 through Nov. 10. Ticket prices vary to approximately \$40. Phone orders accepted seven days a week. From Toronto, the box office number is (416) 363-4471.

How to vote here from there

Voters unable to cast their ballots in person during advance polls or on election day September 6 may do so by proxy if they qualify, according to Elections Ontario.

Students will be eligible to vote by proxy in the provincial election as long as they are duly registered in a recognized educational institution.

Proxy voting is also possible for members of the Canadian Forces and their immediate families, employees away on business, those physically incapable of attending a polling station, or inmates in a penal or correctional institution.

To vote by proxy, the elector authorizes another qualified voter in the same electoral district to vote on their behalf. But, an elector may not act as proxy for more than two voters.

If voting by proxy or in person, it's the responsibility of voters to ensure that their names are on the list of electors for the polling division where they ordinarily reside.

Proxy application forms may be obtained from any returning officer. Once completed, the forms must be presented to the returning officer in the electoral district where the voters reside.

Upon receipt of the proxy application form, the returning officer may then issue certificates to a proxy voter who will, in turn, present it at the polling place to exchange it for a

The deadline to be certified to proxy vote is 8 p.m. September 5.

People eligible to vote are those who, on election day, are 18 years of age or older, Canadian citizens, and who have resided in Ontario for the six-month period prior to Sept. 6.







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